

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS ROME 16108

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON

SUBJ: 1979 WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORMS AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT

1. FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 29 THE APPOINTMENT OF HERMAN SANTA CRUZ OF CHILE AS FAO'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL, FOR THE FAO WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO BE HELD IN ROME IN THE SUMMER OF 1979.

2. THE FAO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE AND FOR LEADING AND COORDINATING THE PREPARATIONS OF THE VARIOUS OTHER UN AGENCIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED. WITH SUCH A BIG TOPIC, THE FAO HAS HAD TROUBLE FOCUSING ITS PREPARATIONS SO AS TO ENSURE A PRODUCTIVE CONFERENCE. THE APPOINTMENT OF SANTA CRUZ SHOULD HELP. THE FAO'S ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS: QUOTE: THE PURPOSE OF THE 1979 CONFERENCE WAS TO BRING ABOUT AWARENESS OF THE POVERTY AND LACK OF DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS OF MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ASSESS THE NATURE, MAGNITUDE AND URGENCY OF THESE PROBLEMS, AND TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE OF THE RELATIVE SUCCESS OR FAILURES OF ALTERNATIVE CURATIVE STRATEGIES WHICH HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED. IT IS TO BE A CONFERENCE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN WHICH THEY
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CAN DISCUSS RURAL PROBLEMS ON THE BASIS OF ANALYTICAL DOCUMENTATION PREPARED BY FAO AND ARRIVE AT THEIR OWN POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS. END QUOTE.

3. MR. SANTA CRUZ HAS A LONG HISTORY OF UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY. A LAWYER AND JUDGE BY TRAINING, HE WAS CHILE' AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN FROM 1947 TO 1953,

PRESIDENT OF THE UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL(ECOSOC) IN 1950
AND 1951, CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE OF 1969 AND OF THE GENERAL COMMEMORATIVE (25TH ANNIVERSARY)
CONFERENCE OF 1970, MEMBER OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE OF THE
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION AND OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

IN 1958, HE UNDERTOOK A STUDY ON FAO'S ROLE IN RURAL WELFARE, AND
IN 1959 WAS APPOINTED THE ORGANIZATION'S SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE
IN LATIN AMERICA -- A POST HE RETAINED UNTIL HIS RESIGNATION
IN 1967. AFTER LEAVING FAO, MR. SANTA CRUZ WAS PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS COUNTRY TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN GENEVA FROM 1967 TO 1973. NOW DIRECTOR-
GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT IN PARIS,
MR. SANTA CRUZ TAKES UP HIS DUTIES WITH THE FAO ON OCTOBER 1
IN TIME TO MEET THIS WEEK WITH THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON AGRARIAN
REFORM.GARDNER

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